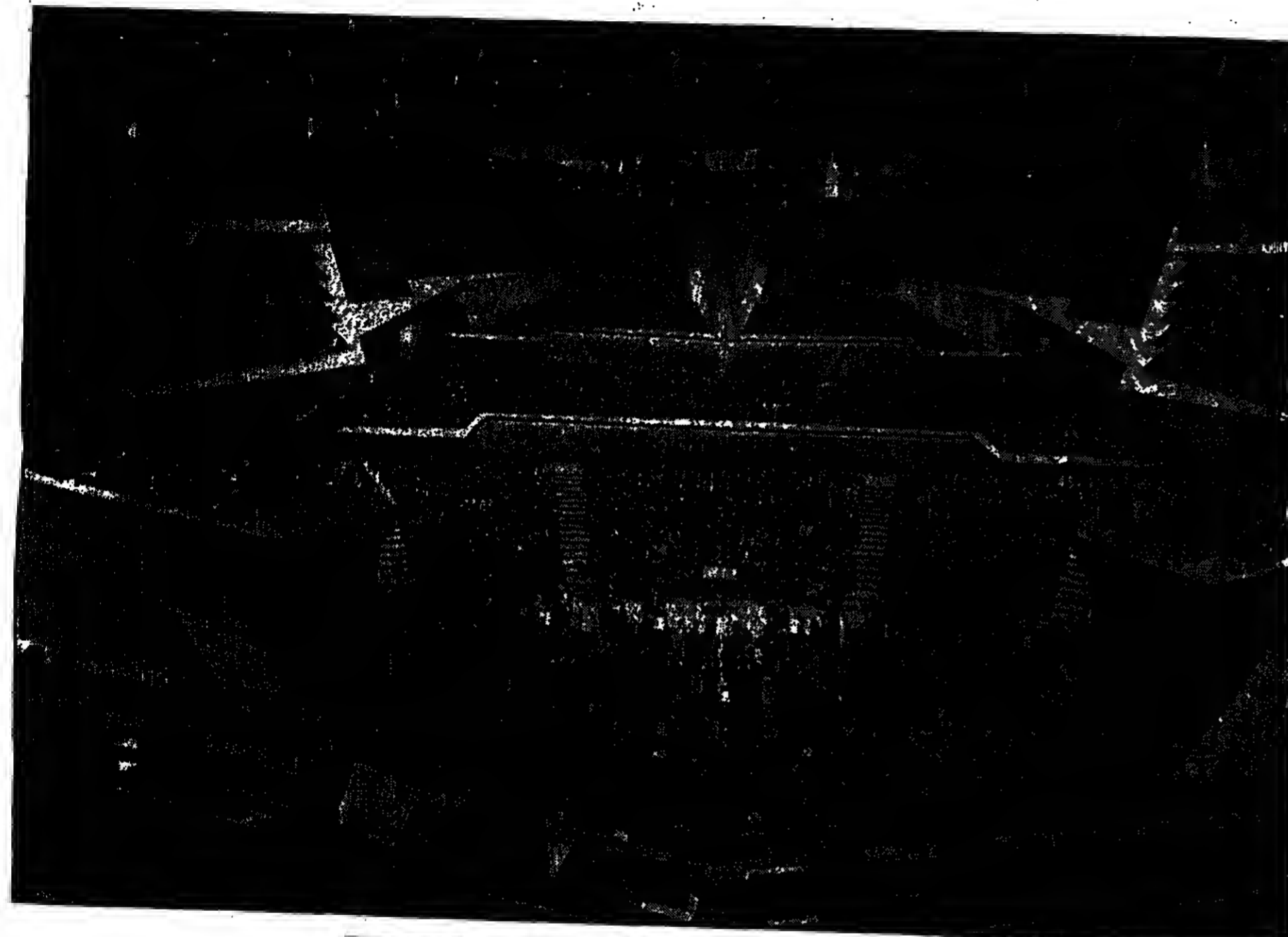


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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 1 May 1977
Sixteenth Year - No. 785 - By air

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EEC prepares for its talks with Washington



It has been a busy week for the Common Market, with Britain's Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, off to Washington to bask in the glory of world affairs — and just as well too, considering the bitter disappointments the EEC has suffered of late.

President Carter welcomed Mr Jenkins in the White House and Vice-President Mondale, whose first port of call after his inauguration was the European Commission in Brussels, held further talks with the top-ranking Eurocrats.

Other members of the Carter administration have also shown interest in the European Community.

Be it coincidence or sheer bad luck in planning, Mr Jenkins' visit to the United States coincided with a visit to Brussels by a US delegation to hold consultations on further cooperation.

The EEC has been active in other respects too. The Common Market Foreign Ministers met in London to coordinate their views within the framework of European political cooperation.

The agenda included both the Nine's viewpoint on Southern Africa and prepara-

While the Foreign Ministers were meeting in London, EEC Finance Ministers convened in Luxembourg. They too were mainly concerned with sounding out a common viewpoint on international conferences with a view to speaking with one voice.

At Luxembourg the Finance Ministers of the Nine reached partial agreement in preparation for the forthcoming IMF talks on new sources of funds to bail out the poorer developing countries who have been saddled with crippling debts as a result of the oil crisis.

The Finance Ministers also reviewed items that will be on the agenda of the Western economic summit to be held in London on 8 and 9 May. Here too the Nine were keen to arrive at a viewpoint shared by all members of the Common Market.

First and foremost it is a matter of the dialogue with the United States, which is currently characterised by clashes on nuclear power and ways and means of stepping up world trade and by increasing pressure brought to bear on President Carter to resort to protectionist measures against imports from Europe and Japan.

Until recently the talks in Brussels seemed certain to concentrate on President Carter's nuclear and energy policies. These are still sensitive issues but less likely to lead to a head-on clash now that Washington has signified its intention of taking the heat off.

This country's Guido Brunner, EEC commissioner with responsibility for energy policies (and thus for uranium supplies), has indicated that a resumption of uranium supplies by both the United States and Canada seems on the cards.

Mr Carter's original plan to impose se-



Spanish Royal Couple in Bonn

Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia being welcomed by President Walter Scheel and his wife Mildred in Bonn. With them are the two Scheel children, Simon Martin and Andrea Gwendolyn. The Spanish Royal Couple spent five days on a State visit to this country from 18 April.

(Photo: dpa)

Foreign Minister

Hans-Dietrich Genscher visits New Delhi

No one was expecting too much to come of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to New Delhi, of course, but this alone is not sufficient to account for its success.

Herr Genscher not only cut a good figure in the Indian capital, but also conveyed the impression that ties between Bonn and New Delhi are on the verge of substantial improvement.

His brief visit itself came to assume substantial proportions, with Indian Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee cordially noting that he would be spending slightly longer in Bonn on his return visit.

Herr Genscher did not limit himself to commercial interests. He also devoted time to political cooperation, which India alone has been anxious to extend in the recent past.

He sounded uncommonly enthusiastic about non-alignment, returning this particular ball to India's court. Bonn, Herr Genscher claimed, is not happy about countries being classified as either pro-West or pro-East.

This country, the Bonn Foreign Minister maintained, is opposed to the idea of both zones of influence and of exporting ideology. Bonn's aim, he stated, is to foster "genuine partnership."

Herr Genscher termed his visit a new chapter in relations between Bonn and New Delhi. This may, it is true, sound slightly exaggerated, but there can be no doubt that the cordial informality and expressions of mutual interest went beyond what has been customary in relations between the two countries.

Consultations scheduled for this August and the visit to Bonn later this year by the Indian Foreign Minister will show whether these promising words are to be followed by action. (Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 April 1977)



The new Indian Premier Morarji Deas with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in New Delhi. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

EEC The Nine still lack stimulus and a spirit of community Page 2

DEFENCE Precision weapons won't replace soldiers, says military expert Page 4

SPACE RESEARCH Round-the-clock watch for meteorites continues Page 8

LITERATURE Hermann Hesse centenary exhibition in Marbach Page 11

HISTORY Unique salvage operation to raise 1,000-year-old sunken Viking ship Page 14

tions for a joint approach towards the Helsinki follow-up conference in Belgrade.

Regular gatherings of Common Market Foreign Ministers occasionally reach decisions in their capacity as the EEC Council of Ministers or merely compare notes within the more informal framework of European political cooperation.

Despite the claims these consultations make on the Ministers' time they are popular with all concerned. Cooperation, it is generally agreed, is intensified by the ongoing dialogue.

SPACE RESEARCH

Round-the-clock watch for meteorites continues

Jumbo meteorites weighing between one and several dozen tons cross the Earth's path far more frequently than was generally considered to be the case a decade ago.

Basing their assumptions on the frequency of small meteorites weighing up to a few hundred grams, scientists now conclude that one-tonners occur about a hundred times more often than they had imagined and ten-tonners maybe a thousand times more frequently.

They seldom penetrate the atmosphere, however, much to the chagrin of research scientists who have manned observation posts for more than a decade in the hope of registering the impact of a meteorite and locating one such recent visitor from outer space.

The observation posts are fitted out with cameras that scan the night sky. One of the first was set up at Czechoslovakia's Ondrejov observatory in 1951.

Its first reported success came on 7 April 1959 when the cameras recorded the trajectory of a meteorite with the magnitude of minus nineteen, or 250 times brighter, in other words, than the full Moon.

Euro-Spacelab astronauts sought

Would-be astronauts please note. The Federal Aerospace Research Institute and the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology advertised in a variety of newspapers on 16 April for applicants to man the European Spacelab on its inaugural mission in July 1980.

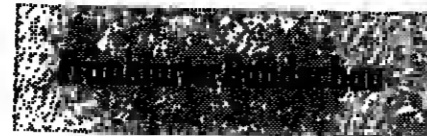
By 30 July the Aerospace Research Institute has to submit the names and particulars of six candidates from this country to the European Space Agency.

Esa will then shortlist six applicants from the names submitted by its ten member-countries and put forward their names to Nasa, the US aeronautics and space administration. Eventually Europe's first astronaut will orbit the Earth for a week in the company of an American counterpart.

Applicants must not be older than forty-seven. They must be between five foot and six foot three (1.53 and 1.90 metres) in height and speak perfect English.

They must also have a clean bill of health and hold a university degree in science or engineering. A panel of Aerospace Research Association experts will screen applicants in the course of three-week tests.

(Die Welt, 20 April 1977)



The remains of this fireball were actually found near Pribram, Czechoslovakia; 8.3 kg of olivin, bronzite and chondrite meteorite rock.

The Pribram meteorite was the first for which a precise trajectory could be computed within the solar system. The freshly-landed meteorite also provided invaluable specimen material from which to assess space radiation.

The reports of this success induced other countries to set up an extensive network of observation posts. The United States set up its prairie network, Canada a separate network of its own, while on this side of the Atlantic the European Sky Network consisted of fifty observation posts in Britain, 25 in the south of the Federal Republic and twenty in Czechoslovakia.

The US network was phased out in 1975, but the Soviet Union has since started to install about forty observation posts covering an area of approximately one million square kilometres extending from the Northern Caucasus to the Ukraine.

Most of the cameras run fairly inexpensively. In this country, for instance, the network is run by the Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute, Heidelberg, and uses Leica cameras with special lenses.

The exposures record the stars and brighter meteorites, which are the ones scientists are mainly interested in. The cameras are located in isolated areas where there is little light that could interfere with the quality of exposures.

As a rule the observation posts are on lonely farms, where they are serviced and films collected once a month.

One film or another arrives in Heidelberg almost daily. If anything promising seems to have happened, old films are immediately collected and evaluated to try to estimate the trajectory. Later on experts may travel to the area to see whether the meteorite has landed.

The network in this country comes up with a possible find every other month or so, but the four teams of scouts who have been sent out whenever the need arose since the network was set up in 1968 have not yet found any traces of a meteorite.

The best prospect to date seemed to be near Leutkirch in the Allgäu mountains, Bavaria, on 30 April 1974 when a meteorite travelling at 122 kilometres a second might, it was estimated, come down to earth still weighing fourteen kilograms.

lograms. But no, nothing at all was found. Meteorite observation networks in other countries have proved equally unsuccessful. In 1970 a solitary meteorite was sighted near Lost City, Idaho, that was reckoned to weigh 25 kilos on landing. Pieces were found to a total weight of 17.3 kilos, allowing scientists to reconstruct its shape. That, however, was it, and when the observation networks were set up scientists had hoped to make a couple of finds or so a year. For up to twelve years observations have been conducted over an area mounting to nearly a tenth of the Earth's land mass, so the results have been none too spectacular. Film evaluation has proved immensely useful, it is gratifying to be able to report. It is supervised by computer in Czechoslovakia. Large meteorites, it appears, make a beeline for the Earth fairly frequently, and the larger they are, the more of them there are.

This tallies with the theory about the formation of the planets according to which planets are the result of meteorites bunching up due to the force of gravity.

If this is the case, the remaining meteorites within the solar system must steadily be increasing in size at the expense of the smaller ones.

Surprisingly too, meteorites ore by no means invariably the combinations of iron, stone and carbon we have been taught to believe by textbooks and museums.

Nearly half of them appear to resemble comets with a density of between 0.2 to one gram per cubic centimetre, which means that they consist mainly of frozen gas and dust.

The largest meteorite so far observed was sighted over Western Czechoslovakia on 4 December 1974. It weighed an estimated 200 tons but with a density of only about 0.2 grams per cubic centimetre it must, basically, have been a small comet.

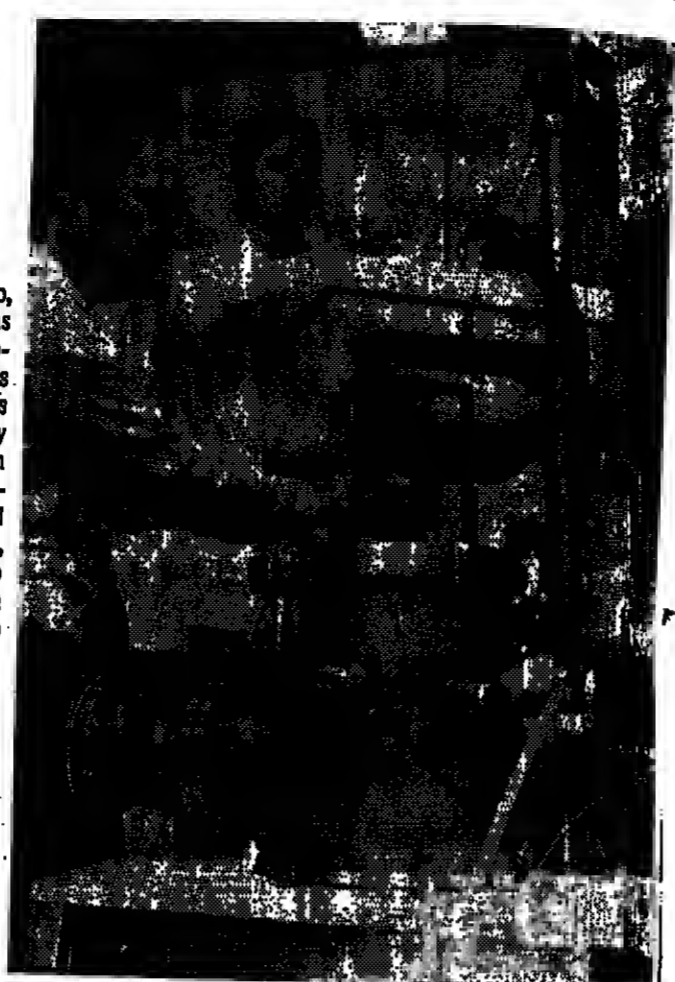
The Sumava fireball, as it was dubbed, hit the Earth's atmosphere at a speed of 26 kilometres a second and burnt up in three seconds flat and a blaze of glory at an altitude of 55 kilometres.

Had it been a meteorite consisting mainly of rock and been travelling at a slightly lower speed of, say, ten to twelve kilometres a second, it would conceivably have left behind a crater several hundred metres in diameter.

It is only the large, slow meteorites that stand much of a chance of penetrating the atmosphere. Most meteorites burn up, leaving nothing but clouds of cosmic dust — up to 100 tons a day, according to Dr Keith Hindley in the *New Scientist*.

Nine tenths of this total is caused by the larger meteorites, our frequent visitors, Dr Hindley claims. They are not interplanetary particles, are the main cause of what is termed cosmic dust.

Harald Steinhilber
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1977)



Space simulator — table-top model

This stainless steel container perched on a laboratory table-top in Summersbach, near Cologne, is the nucleus of a unique project in which the Science Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia has invested 330,000 Deutschmarks. It houses a space simulator in which temperatures and pressure can be generated to simulate conditions in outer space. Professor Reiner Hütt (left) and three associates spent more than two years designing and constructing the table-top simulator, which will be used for experiments with rare and expensive materials such as beryllium and tungsten. Samples are lent by domestic and foreign manufacturers. In comparison with osmium, for instance, gold is worth no more than the scrap metal merchant's any old iron. (Photo: Steinhilber)

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Life

MEDICINE

Cancer strikes 1,500 children in Germany each year



Some 1,500 children fall ill with cancer in the Federal Republic of Germany each year.

But certain congenital tumors of the kidneys, the nerve cells, tissues and bones are also relatively frequent.

Considerable therapeutic successes have been achieved since the sixties with the introduction of highly effective drugs which prevent the growth of cells.

All this has considerably helped to improve the therapeutic success in cases of leukaemia, malignant lymph growths and congenital tumors compared with the therapy of twenty or thirty years ago.

The reason for this cooperation is quite obvious: Although the number of cancer cases in childhood is rather high, cases of malignant blood diseases and congenital tumors are relatively rare.

Of one million West Germans, only 24 children aged up to 15 are effected by these diseases.

The rarity of these diseases and the peculiarities of each individual case not only make an accurate diagnosis difficult but also hamper therapy prospects, since many pediatricians have insufficient experience in treating these ailments.

These facts greatly contributed towards the formation in 1966 of the "Work Group for Leukaemia Research and Therapy in Children".

The Group now encompasses 40 pediatric clinics in the Federal Republic of Germany. Its members meet twice a year for the purpose of exchanging experiences.

This helps coordinate diagnostic and therapeutic methods which, in the final analysis, benefit the patients, since only a great number of treatments permit conclusions to be drawn.

Intensive leukaemia therapy, which invariably causes side effects, requires constant checkups by experienced doctors, nurses and medical technicians.

The Work Group has meanwhile worked out therapy procedures for various types of leukaemia and for a number of other tumors in children, thus making sure that the greatest possible therapeutic success is achieved.

It soon turned out that these measures were only the beginning of further activities on the part of the Group. But it also became obvious that further steps towards coordinating work are necessary.

And, above all, it became obvious that additional research into leukaemia is necessary and that this research must take place in close regional and supra-regional cooperation with all related fields of medicine such as pediatric surgery, pediatric radiology, X-ray therapy and pathology.

Kiel, for instance, has a lymphogranuloma register where a team of physicians headed by Professor K. Lennert collects all relevant data of malignant blood diseases that occurred in this country during the past few years.

This work has meanwhile led to an internationally recognised re-classification of the various leukaemia types and has thus imparted new impulses to clinical research. The register has increasingly become the basis of all further work in the field of leukaemia and malignant lymphogranulomas.

The Work Group for Leukemia Research and Therapy in Children has now been in existence for 10 years.

The review of the work now presented by Professor G. Landbeck, Hamburg, is interesting in more than one way. As a result of children suffering from leukaemia, the Group was in a position to carry out 23 research projects costing DM 1.2 million.

These funds have above all contributed towards organising supra-regional planning, continuous international contacts and have helped to promote pediatric-oncological research in this country to such an extent that it need not fear comparison on an international level.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen (Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1977)

Bad teeth can cause sex problems, says neurologist

Sexual disturbances in both men and women can be caused by decayed or infected teeth as well as by other painful inflammations in the head and other parts of the body. These facts were pointed out by the neurologist Dr Armin Knoll at the 28th Annual Congress of the German Medical Work Group for Infection Research in Bad Nauheim.

According to Dr Knoll, some 20 per cent of exogenous (externally-caused) sexual disturbances are due to oral causes. But it would be wrong to look for infections in the 80 per cent of psychologically motivated sexual disturbances.

In a comparative study involving 18 Austrian workers in the tobacco industry who were observed for 14 years, Dr Perger found that there were five times as many rheumatic ailments among workers with dormant infections as among others. Predisposition for intestinal colic and colds is 40 per cent higher among people with dormant infections.

Among the major factors in connection with dormant infections Dr Perger named, apart from the teeth, inflammations of tonsils and sinuses as well as latent appendicitis.

The diagnosis of these infected areas, which must usually be dealt with by surgery, can be carried out by X-rays as well as by a number of specialised laboratory tests. But these are so sophisticated that only few doctors avail themselves of them.

Udo Lorenz (Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 18 April 1977)



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Dermatologists speaking at the recent congress of the German Dermatological Society in Cologne warned of carelessness with chemicals - especially packaging materials.

Professor K. E. Malten of Nijmegen, Holland, listed many examples where the skin was sensitised by certain types of styrofoam which led to eczemas and certain allergy symptoms.

Professor G. Weltmann, Bonn, pointed to certain industrial medicine measures resulting from his research work into the so-called PVC diseases caused by polyvinylchloride.

Professor Malten pointed out that many factories which process plastics are still in the dark as to how to protect their workers. But the dermatologists granted them that it is anything but easy to know which of the substances or combinations of substances cause allergic skin reactions.

Frequently very small quantities suffice to cause a skin eruption. On the other hand, however, industry is reluctant to divulge the exact composition of some of its products, especially where certain dyes and paints are concerned - and this has led to eczemas, as for instance among printers.

Plastics can harm the skin, dermatologists warn

Endangered are also people who come into contact with modern materials without working in the factories that produce them. This applies to workers who insulate walls with styrofoam as it does to users of cosmetics that are packaged in tubes coated with certain resins.

It also applies to house-painters who constantly work with epoxides. But housewives, too, are in jeopardy because many detergents are likely to affect the skin.

But allergic skin reactions are not caused only by modern chemicals. An over-sensitive skin can be affected by any number of substances found in the environment.

Professor G. Lüders of Tübingen reported about a disease frequently found in gardeners, especially in the spring when they have cut large quantities of narcissus. They often develop an eczema between the fingers which is due to a reaction to the narcissus sap that is released when the stems are cut.

Metals in direct contact with the skin can also lead to skin diseases. Thus, for instance, the upper button of tight blue jeans, which is made of a nickel alloy,

frequently creates a button-sized eczema if it is permitted to come into direct contact with the skin.

Jewellery purportedly made of silver is frequently responsible for an itchy eczema which particularly affects young girls.

Many allergies are caused by inhaling flour, wood dust, animal hair and pollen. All these ailments are evidently due to a lack of resistance and can only be cured by avoiding all contact with the substances responsible.

Where these substances have to do with a patient's occupation, a change of job or profession is called for.

Among occupational diseases, skin ailments rank second only after ailments caused by noise. In 1974 alone some 8,000 workers who applied for retraining or premature retirement as the result of occupational skin diseases were registered.

As Professor H.J. Bandmann, Munich, pointed out, this frequently entails a step down the social ladder. Very frequently the patient forgets about his disease and the reason for his retraining, and the eczemas reappear because he has carelessly exposed himself to the substances that were responsible for the disease in the first place.

As a result, the dermatologist not only has to treat the disease, but also has to continue guiding the patient for many years after the treatment has been successfully concluded. As in the case of diabetics, the patient must gradually learn to live with his condition.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1977)

10 per cent of children eat too much

According to latest research results ten per cent of West German children suffer from obesity. This has been pointed out by the president of the Lower Saxony Medical Association, Dr Gerhard Jungmann, in connection with World Health Day.

One of the causes of obesity in children lies in emotional disorders as a result of which the child eats excessively, the food being a sort of ersatz pacifier. But family eating habits must not be underestimated. To make matters worse obesity isolates a child who, out of frustration, then eats more - thus closing the vicious circle.

(Die Welt, 6 April 1977)

Amalgam safe, say dentists

The Federation of German Dentists has rebutted the contention put forward by an Austrian pathologist that the mercury in fillings used by dentists causes parodontitis.

Researchers of the German Society of Dental Surgery and of the German Society for Parodontology have established that there is no proof of a connection between amalgam fillings and parodontitis. Moreover, the researchers pointed out that the use of these fillings compounds is permissible without restriction.

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